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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND
TERRITORIES

Note verbale dated 3 September 1984 from the Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva
addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq at Geneva ... has the honour to transmit herewith its letter to the Commission on Human Rights concerning violations of fundamental human rights by the Iranian regime as a result of that regime's insistence on continuing the war that it began on 4 September 1980, thereby violating the most basic principle of human rights, namely the right to life.

The Mission requests the Centre for Human Rights to arrange for the said letter to be distributed as an official document at the forty-first session of the Commission.

AnnexTHE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE AS THE WAR ENTERS ITS FIFTH YEAR
ON 4 SEPTEMBER 1984 DUE TO THE INSISTENCE OF IRAN ON CONTINUING ITS
AGGRESSION

The Iranian aggression against Iraq will be entering its fifth year on 4 September 1984 entirely as a result of the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing the war into which it is hurling human waves of children, elderly and other persons in violation of the most fundamental human right - the right to life - and in total disregard of the enormous loss of life resulting from the continuation of the war.

Since the beginning of the Iranian aggression on 4 September 1980, and notwithstanding its own position of strength, Iraq has been agreeable to a peaceful settlement of the dispute and has accepted all of the Security Council resolutions in this respect, beginning with resolution 479 (1980) of 23 September 1980. Iraq has also agreed to all of the international initiatives and mediation efforts calling for peace. The Iranian regime, on the other hand, has persistently refused to accept and respect those international resolutions and initiatives not because it objects to their content but solely because, on principle, it rejects any call for a cessation of the war since a cessation of the war would thwart the expansionist ambitions of the Iranian regime.

Accordingly, that regime bears the sole responsibility not only for the start but also for the continuation of the war. It should be noted that, since coming to power, the Iranian regime has made no secret of its expansionist ambitions and its intention of exporting revolution to neighbouring countries, thereby assuming the right to interfere in the internal affairs of countries of the region. The Iranian regime rushed into the conflict with Iraq which it subsequently developed into a war of aggression that it began on 4 September 1980, when Iranian heavy artillery shelled peaceful cities and economic and petroleum installations in Iraq. Iran also closed the Shatt-Al-Arab and the Strait of Hormuz - Iraq's only outlet to the sea - to Iraqi shipping. In addition to openly declaring its expansionist intentions and its so-called exportation of revolution to neighbouring countries, the Iranian regime simultaneously massed Iranian forces along the frontier with Iraq and proclaimed a general mobilization. These and other acts of aggression were committed by the rulers of Iran before mid-September 1980.

The Iranian regime has even used children in its abominable war, thereby prompting the Commission on Human Rights to adopt its resolution 1984/39 of 12 March 1984 in which it called upon the Government of Iran to refrain immediately from the use of children in the Iranian Armed Forces, especially in time of war. However, the Iranian regime is still persistently shelling peaceful cities and treating prisoners of war in a brutal and inhuman manner, which constitutes yet another violation of international humanitarian law and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

While highly appreciating the efforts of the distinguished Commission on Human Rights, Iraq wishes to point out that Iran, although insisting on continuing the war and persistently defying United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community, nevertheless comes to the United Nations and its conferences,

whenever this serves its interests, to complain about the horrors of war, to distort the facts and to fabricate lies in an effort to divert attention from its lack of respect for the will of the international community and to justify its failure to achieve its expansionist ambitions. The entire crisis is due to Iran's insistence on continuing the war and the real and effective solution lies in ensuring respect for the will of the international community, the immediate cessation of hostilities and the establishment of peace on a basis that will safeguard the rights of both countries and ensure non-interference by either of the parties in the internal affairs of the other. The Commission on Human Rights is requested to take whatever action it deems necessary to make the Iranian regime listen to the voice of reason and apply the most fundamental principle of human rights - the individual's right to life - without forcing any person to engage in war, particularly in view of the fact that the continuation of the war is jeopardizing international peace and security.
